

Just as the sun passes through the Zodiac, a movement which is mayavic, so did each Gopi see next to her the divine figure of the dancing Krishna. Similar was the meaning of the circle-dance of the Amazons round a Priapic image, the emblem of the creating energy of the Immortal Soul.

All evolution is cyclic—emerging from a point Life circles spirally onwards and upwards making small and great wheels, chakras. Thus the Chakra of Vishnu denotes a particular cycle of evolution. Whatever emerges from its parent inherits the power to move in circles which the parent possesses, though each makes its own circles or cycles. Thus a child born of the womb of its mother inherits her power but makes its own cycle. That is why in the ancient world birthdays were invested with a religious significance and were observed by spiritual practices. The birthday marks the beginning of a yearly cycle.

Our whole individual life is composed of cycles : moods good and bad, have their rotatory motion, and so they rise and set, to rise again. Concentration requires regularity in practice if it is to be successful which means that mind moves cyclically. Doctors recommend fixed hours for food for the sake of health, and their pills and powders have to be repeated in cyclic intervals for the cure of diseases. The return of cyclic impressions is a fact, and any intelligent person can observe the phenomenon in his own life.

Reaction is cyclic ; effect is cyclic reaction of a cause ; therefore action and reaction are equal and opposite and thus the circle of Karma is formed. Therefore also free will and determinism make a circle. We are free to speak but not free to feel the reaction of that speech ; we hear the echo in terms of the strength put into our shout. Therefore is Karma often mistaken for destiny, which is only one aspect. Karma is action *and* reaction ; human free will energizes action and thus determines its reaction. Because we act without knowledge, as we breathe and digest involuntarily, we mistake the cyclic reaction of our thoughts and feelings, our words and deeds as determined for us from without and not by us ; while knowledge reveals the fact that reaction emerges from action and that each pair of action and reaction, of cause and effect, is a circle in itself, though it has continuity in a spiral motion. Thus cause produces its effect, which in its turn becomes a cause. Therefore in the Vaiseshika philosophy Karma is considered a motion, one of the seven categories of things.

The sure way to master the subject of cycles is to begin to observe its operation within ourselves. The human body in its pre-natal life grows by weekly cycles, connected with lunar movements ; diseases pertaining to children as to grown-ups are also related to lunar cycles, as observant doctors will recognize. But there are cycles hidden in our psychic natures and these are not very much recognized and still more sparingly known. There are mind cycles which are related to solar movements, as there are psycho-physiological cycles related to lunar ones. These are still less known. Soul practices are taught by the gurus who take advantage of the solar cycles affecting